

THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION OF THE
SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE,

by Ann Savours

(ms. completed July 1958).

The Scott Polar Research Institute which was founded in 1920 possesses a notable collection of manuscripts relating to the polar regions. The first acquisitions were the papers of the National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-04 and of the British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, 1910-13, leader R.F. Scott, which were presented in 1920 by the Trustees of the Captain Scott Memorial Polar Research Trust. The collection has since grown to include material from most of the nineteenth and twentieth century British polar expeditions. An appeal through the Press in 1956 resulted in the acquisition of a number of interesting manuscripts which might otherwise have remained unnoticed in store, or been destroyed for want of storage space. The Institute is always anxious to increase its collection, and is grateful for the gift of any journals, log-books, letters and other material of polar interest. This paper is intended as a guide to the present collection. New accessions are listed in the annual report of the Scott Polar Research Institute published yearly in the Polar Record and in the Cambridge University Reporter, and are also summarized in the Bulletin of the National Register of Archives (London).

Treatment of Accessions.

Large collections of papers are preserved intact as they come to the Institute, except for obvious ephemera. This may result in the acquisition of material of no direct polar interest, but it does mean that family papers are kept together, and that important biographical material is not lost. Individual diaries, descriptive letters, ships' log-books and other material of permanent historical interest are incorporated at once into the manuscript collection, after being given a number and brief description in the accessions register; also included are originals and copies of topographical survey records, ms. maps and records of meteorological data. Many documents which are at present in the Institute's files of unpublished material will eventually be transferred to the manuscript collection, when the information they contain is no longer of current interest. When the Institute is presented with the correspondence files of a completed expedition, the papers are sorted into two broad categories: first those worth preserving for their historical interest, and second, those of current practical value dealing with equipment, clothing, rations, etc. Papers in the first group are added to the manuscript collection, while those of the second group are classified by subject and placed in the information files ready for use in the day to day work of the Institute. The papers of some forty expeditions have been sorted in this way, for example those of the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, leader J.R. Rymill, those of the Gough Island Scientific Survey, 1955-56, leader J. Heaney and those of many Cambridge expeditions. An annotated author catalogue of manuscripts is maintained in the form of an alphabetical sheaf catalogue. It includes records of the whereabouts of material outside the Institute.

The following is a list of the most important items and special collections in the Institute.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
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The first of the year is a special issue devoted to the subject of "The Medical Profession and the Public." It contains a number of articles of interest to the general public, as well as to the medical profession. The first article is by Dr. J. H. T. Ross, of the University of Chicago, who discusses the "Medical Profession and the Public." He points out that the medical profession has a duty to the public, and that it must be able to communicate with the public in a way that is understandable. He also discusses the importance of the medical profession in the community, and the need for a better understanding of the medical profession by the public. The second article is by Dr. W. B. Keen, of the University of California, who discusses the "Medical Profession and the Public." He points out that the medical profession has a duty to the public, and that it must be able to communicate with the public in a way that is understandable. He also discusses the importance of the medical profession in the community, and the need for a better understanding of the medical profession by the public. The third article is by Dr. J. H. T. Ross, of the University of Chicago, who discusses the "Medical Profession and the Public." He points out that the medical profession has a duty to the public, and that it must be able to communicate with the public in a way that is understandable. He also discusses the importance of the medical profession in the community, and the need for a better understanding of the medical profession by the public.

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

POLARPAM

1. Parry papers (ms.438)

Letters, diaries and correspondence of Sir William Edward Parry (1790-1855), who led four British naval expeditions to the Arctic between 1819 and 1827, presented in 1955 by Admiral Sir Edward Parry, K.C.B. There are fifteen bound notebooks and journals, 1030 letters, plus maps, papers and other material. The letters include 681 written by Parry to his family, between the years 1799 and 1855; there are also letters from Sir John Barrow, F.W. Beechey, Henry Foster, Sir John and Lady Franklin, Sir Francis Leopold McClintock, Sir Clements Markham, Sir John Richardson, Sir John Ross and others. There is too the original manuscript version of The North Georgia Gazette and Winter Chronicle, a newspaper produced during the voyage of the Hecla and Griper, 1819-20, and later published by John Murray, London, 1821.

2. Back collection (ms.395)

The papers and journals of Sir George Back (1796-1878) have been on permanent loan to the Institute since 1955 from John Pares, Esq. They cover the period 1820 to 1850, and consist of twenty bound notebooks and journals kept by Back during the Second Arctic Land Expedition, 1825-27; during the expedition in search of Sir John Ross, 1832-35 and during his travels in Europe. There are some 300 letters, mainly correspondence with the Admiralty concerning H.M.S. Terror, the loss of the Erebus and Terror and his own arctic expeditions. Some 55 of the letters were written between 1819 and 1839 to and from Sir John Franklin. There are letters from Sir Francis Beaufort, Sir William Edward Parry, Sir Robert McClure, John Rae, Sir John Richardson, Sir James and Sir John Ross as well as other papers and correspondence.

3. Lefroy bequest (ms.248)

Papers, journals and correspondence of Sir John and Lady Franklin, and of their niece Sophia Cracroft, bequeathed in 1941 by the Misses Lefroy. The 165 journals of Lady Franklin cover most of her life; the earliest is a schoolgirl diary of 1803 and the latest her notes on a visit to Salt Lake City in 1870. Apart from their polar interest they are valuable to the student of the nineteenth century English social history, and also shed light on the political and social history of Tasmania, where Sir John was Governor from 1837 to 1844. Sir John's nineteen notebooks, letter books and journals relate mainly to his first and second Arctic Land Expeditions of 1819-22 and 1825-27, and to his naval service in the Mediterranean. There are over 1000 letters in the bequest, including 201 written by Sir John Franklin, 239 by Lady Franklin, 183 by Sophia Cracroft, and 573 by their correspondents, Sir George Back, John Barrow, Sir Francis Beaufort, F.W. Beechey, J.R. Bellot, Sir Richard Collinson, F.R.M. Crozier, Cornelius Grinnell, C.F. Hall, Sir Edward Augustus Inglefield, E.K. Kane, Sir Francis Leopold McClintock, Sherard Osborn, Sir William Edward Parry, William Penny, John Rae, Sir John Richardson, Sir John and Sir James Clark Ross, Sir Edward Sabine and many others, including the Admiralty and other official institutions. The collection also includes one of the last records of the Franklin Expedition, deposited by Lieut. Graham Gore, R.N., in a cairn on King William Island in May 1847, and found

by Lieut. William R. Hobson, R.N., in 1859. (S.P.R.I. museum register 54/20/1). Frances Woodward's Portrait of Jane, (London, 1951) was written mainly from the original material in the Lefroy bequest.

4. Penny Craik gift (ms.116)

The correspondence of Captain William Penny, the Aberdeen whaling captain, who commanded the arctic search expedition of 1850-51, in Lady Franklin and Sophia organised by Lady Franklin. The papers were presented in 1950 by Mrs. Elizabeth Penny Craik. The period covered is roughly 1840 to 1860. There are some 150 letters written by Penny chiefly to the Admiralty and to Lady Franklin, John Barrow and W.A.B. Hamilton. The other 286 letters are to William Penny from the Admiralty, John Barrow, Lady Franklin, John Hume, Sherard Osborn, and a variety of other correspondents. Some of the material concerns the Aberdeen whaling industry, but the bulk of it relates to the arctic voyage of 1850-51.

5. H.R. Mill gift (ms.367); H.R. Mill bequest (ms.100)

The correspondence and unpublished papers of the late Hugh Robert Mill (1861-1950), antarctic historian, which came to the Institute between 1946 and 1950. The "gift" consists of papers amassed by Mill while writing his Life of Sir Ernest Shackleton (London, 1923). The "bequest" comprises 308 letters from 136 correspondents, including 90 from Bjarne Aagaard, 28 from L.C. Bernacchi, 11 from C.E. Borchgrevink, 24 from W.S. Bruce, 78 from F. Debenham, 26 from Sir Douglas Mawson, 35 from Sir John Murray, 17 from R.F. Scott, 128 from Lady Shackleton and 19 from Sir Ernest Shackleton. Also included are typed extracts from R.C. Mossman's journal of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902-04, leader W.S. Bruce. (ms.100/136.) The Mill collection was again used as source material by Margery and James Fisher in writing Shackleton (London, 1957.)

6. W.S. Bruce collection (ms.101)

The papers and correspondence of the late William Spiers Bruce (1867-1921), the oceanographer and polar explorer, came to the Institute through his executors in 1946. The bulk of the collection consists of 397 letters written between 1893 and 1918 by Bruce and others interested or occupied in polar exploration. There are 3 letters from Roald Amundsen, 85 from R.N. Rudmose Brown, 18 from W.S. Bruce, 15 from J.-B. Charcot, 14 from J.K. Davis, 65 from J.G. Ferrier, 7 from W. Filchner, 9 from A. de Gerlache de Gomery, 7 from Sir Douglas Mawson, 10 from H.R. Mill, 20 from R.C. Mossman, 18 from W.G. Burn Murdoch, 4 from Otto Nordenskjöld and lesser numbers from other well known persons. Besides the letters, there are typescripts of documents relating to the early history of the South Shetland Islands, and parts of Bruce's own journal of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902-04, with the printed but unpublished log of the Scotia.

R.T. Gould papers (ms.397)

The writings and polar correspondence of the late Rupert T. Gould, (1890-1948), author of Oddities (1928) and Enigmas (1929), purchased from his executors in 1949. The papers deal chiefly with problems of historical research into the early history of the Antarctic and with the history of the Franklin and Franklin Search Expeditions in the mid-nineteenth century.

8. Breitfuss collection (mss.148 to 170)

Among the library of published books collected by the late Dr. Leonid L'vovich Breitfuss (1864-1950) the arctic historian, which were bought by the Scott Polar Research Institute in 1951, were some twenty unpublished papers and manuscripts written mostly in the 1920's by Dr. Breitfuss and by Russian authorities such as I.P. Tolmachev. They consist mainly of short geographical descriptions of northeast Siberia.

9. Papers of the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate (1909-51) (ms.311)

Six foolscap volumes of papers (1381 sheets), mainly typewritten, relating to the affairs of the Syndicate, presented in 1956 by Group Captain C.W.B. Urmston. They are divided as follows:-

- a. Index to reports. (26 sheets.)
- b. Reports on the Syndicate's property and claims in Spitsbergen; general correspondence relating to its affairs, including maps. (1035 sheets.)
- c. Summary of details of property and titles; report on coal estates; report on geological results of the 1948 expedition. (286 sheets.)
- d. Audit sheets and mining costs in Spitsbergen (20 sheets.)
- e. Valuation by Powell Duffryn of the Syndicate's property, 1951. (14 sheets.)

There are additional maps and correspondence relating to the Syndicate in the R.N. Rudmose Brown bequest, 1957 (ms.356).

OTHER ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

(arranged in chronological order of expedition).

Eighteenth century

"Description of plants and animals found in the voyage to the North Pole", 1773, by Constantine John Phipps, later Lord Mulgrave (ms.337).

Nineteenth century

Journals of Sir Francis Leopold McClintock for the years 1848, 1850, 1852-54, 1858-59. (mss.1;216. Microfilm.)

Journals and notebooks kept by Robert Brown of Campster during the arctic voyage of S.S. Narwhal (Dundee), 1861, and during the British expedition to Greenland, 1867, leader Edward Whymper (ms.441).

Journals and notebooks of the following members of the British Arctic Expedition, 1875-76, leader Sir George Nares: Pelham Aldrich (mss.238; 255; 278; 286); G. le C. Egerton (ms.174); G.A. Giffard (mss.41-44); A.H. Markham (ms.396); W. Rawson (mss.38-40; 401).

Log books, correspondence and papers of Benjamin Leigh Smith and other members of his arctic expeditions of 1873 to 1882 (mss.300; 301).

Journals, letters and papers of F.G. Jackson and members of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition to Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa, 1894-97 (ms.287).

Spitsbergen journals of E.J. Garwood, 1896-97 (mss.62 to 69).

Journals and meteorological record kept by L.C. Bernacchi during the British Antarctic Expedition, 1898-1900, leader C.E. Borchgrevink (ms.353/1).

Twentieth century

Journals, logs and notebooks of the following members of the British National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-04, leader R.F. Scott: A.B. Armitage (ms.366/5); M. Barne (ms.366/6); L.C. Bernacchi (ms.353/2); G.F.A. Mulock (ms.366/4); G.R.M. Murray (ms.346); Sir Charles William Rawson Royds (ms.366/7); R.F. Scott (ms.352); Sir Reginald Skelton (ms.342); E.A. Wilson (mss.232 to 234).

Journals, notebook and letters written by H. Darrell in the Canadian Arctic, 1899-1910 (mss.80 to 90).

Journals and notebooks of the following members of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1907-09, leader Sir Ernest Shackleton: E.S. Marshall (ms.206. Microfilm); Sir Raymond Priestley (ms.298/1-3); F. Wild (ms.437. Typescript copy). Also the meteorological log of the expedition, March 1908 to February 1909 (ms.374).

Journals and notebooks of the following members of the British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, 1910-13, leader R.F. Scott: W.M. Bruce (mss.280/11; 402); V.L.A. Campbell (ms.280/8); F. Debenham (ms.279); H.L.L. Pennell (ms.230); Sir Raymond Priestley (mss.196; 198; 298/6-14); E.A. Wilson, 1910-11 (ms.234).

Journals of the following members of the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914-16, leader Sir Ernest Shackleton: R.W. James (ms.370); F.A. Worsley (mss.296; 297; 384); A. Keith Jack (ms.448. Abridged typescript copy).

Journals and notebooks kept in Spitsbergen by R.N. Rudnose Brown, 1909-20 (ms.356).

Journals and notebooks kept by T.W. Bagshawe and M. C. Lester during the British Antarctic Expedition, 1920-22 (mss.339; 358).

Journal kept by D.G. Jeffrey (ms.250) and by Sir Hubert Wilkins (ms.215) during the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition, 1920-22, leader Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Journal kept by N.E. Odell during the Oxford University Expedition to Spitsbergen, 1921, and during the Merton College Arctic Expedition, 1923 (ms.431).

Journal kept by Sir Hubert Wilkins during his arctic flight of 1928 (ms.433. Photocopy).

Tagebuch von der Deutschen Grönland expedition, 1930-31
by Alfred Wegener (ms.93. Typescript copy).

Journals kept by Augustine Courtauld during the British arctic expeditions of 1926, 1929, 1930-31, 1935-36 (mss.120-128. On permanent loan).

Journals and angle book kept by A. Stephenson during the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, 1930-31, leader H.G. Watkins and during the British Polar Year Expedition to Fort Rae, Canada, 1932-33, leader J.M. Stagg (ms.432. Typescript copies).

Journal kept by David Lack during the Cambridge Expedition to Bear Island [Bjørnøya], 1932, and during the Cambridge Expedition to East Greenland and Iceland, 1933 (ms.447. On permanent loan).

Journal kept by J.W. Wright during the Oxford University Arctic Expedition, 1935-36, leader A.R. Glen (ms.218) and field survey books kept during the British Arctic Expedition, 1937-38, leader D. Haig-Thomas. (mss.283; 319; 340).

Journals and notebooks kept by the following members of the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, leader J.R. Rymill: G.C.L. Bortram (mss.29 to 37); J.H. Martin (ms.429); B.B. Roberts (mss.236; 237); A. Stephenson (ms.432/5. Typescript copy).

Report by F. Nusser on German naval and air force scientific activities in the Arctic during the war years, 1940-45 [Die Arktisunternehmen des Marinewetterdienstes in den Jahren 1940-1945.] (mss.139; 140. German typescript. English translation).

Notebooks and observations of the following members of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, 1949-52, leader J. Gissæver: A. Reece; G. de Q. Robin; E.F. Roots; C.W.M. Swithinbank (mss.190; 191; 201; 281; 284; 285; 368).

Journal of Sir Vivian Fuchs, Base E, Stonington Island, Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, 1947-50 (ms.187. To be consulted only with author's consent).

SHIPS LOGS

(arranged alphabetically by name of ship).

POLARPAM

Arctic

Alert, 1875 (ms.376/1); Eira, 1880, 1881-82 (ms.300/5-6);
Samson, 1873 (ms.300/3).

Antarctic

Cora and Robert, 1820-21 (ms.101/1. Typed copy);
Grünland, 1873-74 (ms.439. Microfilm); Hersilia, 1819-20
(ms.443. Microfilm); Here, 1820-23 (mss.322; 323. Microfilm);
Huntress, 1820-22 (ms.440. Microfilm); Morning, 1902-03
(ms.366/9); Penola, 1934-37 (mss.71-78); Penguin, 1829-31
(ms.321. Microfilm); Quest, 1921-22 (ms.251. Typed copy);
Scotia, 1902-04 (ms.101/101. Printed copy, never published);
Terra Nova, 1910-13 (mss.129; 280/12-15).

SHIPS PLANS

The Institute possesses plans of the ships listed below. Dates following the names of each vessel are the approximate dates of construction unless otherwise indicated.

Aallotar, 1952 (Museum register 53/18); Colanus, 1948
(ms.406); Discovery, 1900 (mss.371; 415; 416; 417);
Gjøa, 1872 (ms.403); Isbjørn, 1918 (ms.407); John Biscoe,
1955 (ms.305); Kvitøya, previously Norvegia, plans dated
1932 (ms.407); Magga Dan, 1955 (mss.272; 308); Maud,
1917 (ms.163); Norsel, 1949 (mss.202; 203); Oden, 1957
(ms.324/3); Oluf Sven (ms.344); Penola, 1908 (ms.418);
Polarbjørn, 1919 (ms.410); Polar Front, 1921 (ms.411);
Quest, previously Foca I, plans dated 1921 (ms.409);
Scotia, 1902 (ms.405); Shackleton, 1954, formerly Arendal
(ms.304); Tottan, 1940 (ms.295); Trepassey, 1944 (ms.404);
Veslekari, plans dated 1930 (ms.412/1-2); Voima, 1955
(ms.324/2); Willen Barendsz II, 1955 (ms.306).

There are also the following: plan of Finnish built Soviet icebreaker in course of construction 1955 (ms.324/1); plans dated 1955; of U.S. Navy ice-strengthened cargo ships (ms.389); plans of Norwegian sealers (ms.413; 414).

MAPS AND SURVEYS

Plane table sheets, sketch maps, original surveys and unpublished maps of the polar regions, either originals or photocopies. Both Arctic and Antarctic sections consist mainly of the original maps and plane table sheets of various British expeditions of the 19th and 20th centuries. Listed below are the more significant items in both areas.

Arctic (listed by area)

Svalbard. Whalers' chart of Spitsbergen, 1815 (ms.314); unpublished maps and surveys by the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate, 1909-51 (ms.356); original plane-table sheets and maps of the Oxford University Arctic Expedition, 1935-36, leader A.R. Glen (ms.210); original plane-table sheets of maps by W. Scott Moncrieff, Oxford University Expedition to Nordaustlandet, 1949, leader J.M. Hartog. (mss.143 to 146); two maps of Hopen by J. Neunteufl, German air operation "Helhus", 1944-45 (mss.141; 142).

Iceland. Plane-table sheets and maps made during the following expeditions:- Cambridge Iceland Expedition, 1932, leader B.B. Roberts (ms.421); Cambridge Expedition to Grímsey, 1934, leader D.B. Keith (ms.422); Cambridge Expedition to Iceland, 1934, leader J.W. Wright (ms.423); Cambridge Expedition to Iceland, 1936, leader D.A. Sherriff (ms.424).

Soviet Arctic. Original maps and charts drawn during or after the Waigatz Expedition, 1893, and the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition to Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa, 1894-97, leader F.G. Jackson (ms.419).

Canadian Arctic and Greenland. Original plane-table sheets and maps by J.W. Wright of the Smith Sound area, resulting from the British Arctic Expedition, 1937-38, leader D. Haig-Thomas (ms.283); photocopies and blueprints of original maps made during or after the British Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1936-40 (ms.425); surveys made by E.N. Kendall and others during the Second Arctic Land Expedition, 1825-27, leader Sir John Franklin (ms.248/494).

Antarctic (listed chronologically by expedition)

Copies of early nineteenth century charts of the Falkland Islands Dependencies by W.H. Goddard (ms.354), E. Bransfield (ms.355), G. Powell (ms.222), R. Fildes (mss.386; 387), and others.

Original maps and surveys resulting from the British (Terra Nova) Antarctic Expedition, 1910-13, leader R.F. Scott (ms.280).

Original maps and charts by M.C. Lester resulting from the British Antarctic Expedition, 1920-22 (ms.358).

Copies of original surveys by R.R.S. Discovery II, 1929-35, (mss.102 to 108; 219; 220).

Original survey sheets and compilations resulting from the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, leader J.R. Rymill. (ms.183).

Copies of unpublished maps resulting from the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, 1944-57 (mss.214; 372; 390; 391; 392).

Copies of unpublished maps and surveys resulting from the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions, 1947-57 (ms.242; 329; 331; 365; 381).

Originals and copies of unpublished maps and surveys resulting from the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, 1949-52, leader J. Gjøver. (mss.192; 204; 213; 217; 231; 268; 281; 363; 380).

Original map material from the South Georgia Surveys, 1951-57, leader V.D. Carse (mss.195; 444; 445).

Original plane-table sheet and survey material from the Gough Island Scientific Survey, 1955-56, leader J. Heaney (mss.330; 349).

Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge.
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71

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